

United States District Court  
Southern District of Texas  
Laredo Division

DEC 4 2019 DA

David J. Bradley, Clerk  
Laredo Division

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
LAREDO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

OSVALDO VIJIL-NIETO,  
Defendant.

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§

CRIMINAL NO. 5:19-CR-1816

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

The United States of America, by and through Ryan K. Patrick, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, and Francisco J. Rodriguez, Assistant United States Attorney, and the defendant, **OSVALDO VIJIL-NIETO** (“Defendant”), and Defendant’s counsel, pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, state that they have entered into an agreement, the terms and conditions of which are as follows:

**Defendant’s Agreement**

1. Defendant agrees to plead guilty to **Count One** of the Indictment. **Count One** charges Defendant with **Conspiracy to Transport An Undocumented Alien within the United States**, in violation of **Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324 (a)(1)(A)(ii) and (v)(I)**. Defendant, by entering this plea, agrees that he/she is waiving any right to have the facts that the law makes essential to the punishment either charged in the indictment, or proved to a jury or proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

**Punishment Range**

2. The **statutory** maximum penalty for violation of **Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324 (a)(1)(A)(ii) and (v)(I)**, is imprisonment of **not more than ten (10) years** and a fine of **not more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00)**. Additionally, Defendant may

receive a term of supervised release after imprisonment of **up to three (3) years**. *See* Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3559(a)(3) and 3583(b)(2). Defendant acknowledges and understands that if he/she should violate the conditions of any period of supervised release which may be imposed as part of his sentence, then Defendant may be imprisoned for **up to two (2) years**, without credit for time already served on the term of supervised release prior to such violation. *See* Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3559(a)(3) and 3583(e)(3). Defendant understands that he/she cannot have the imposition or execution of the sentence suspended, nor is he/she eligible for parole.

#### **Mandatory Special Assessment**

3. A. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013(a)(2)(A), immediately after sentencing, Defendant will pay to the Clerk of the United States District Court a special assessment in the amount of **one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per count of conviction**. The payment will be by cashier's check or money order, payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court, c/o District Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 61010, Houston, Texas 77208, Attention: Finance.

B. Pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C. § 3014(a)(5), immediately after sentencing, defendant will pay to the Clerk of the United States District Court a special assessment in the amount of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per count of conviction**. The payment will be by cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court, c/o District Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 61010, Houston, Texas 77208, Attention: Finance.

#### **Immigration Consequences**

4. Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his/her immigration status. Defendant understands that if he/she is not a citizen of the United

States, by pleading guilty he/she may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future. Defendant understands that if he/she is a naturalized United States citizen, pleading guilty may result in immigration consequences, such as denaturalization and potential deportation or removal from the United States. Defendant's attorney has advised Defendant of the potential immigration consequences resulting from Defendant's plea of guilty, and Defendant affirms that he/she wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may result from the guilty plea and conviction.

### **Cooperation**

5. The parties understand this agreement carries the potential for a motion for departure under Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands and agrees that whether such a motion is filed will be determined solely by the United States through the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas. Should Defendant's cooperation, in the sole judgment and discretion of the United States, amount to "substantial assistance," the United States reserves the sole right to file a motion for departure pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant further agrees to persist in that plea through sentencing, fully cooperate with the United States, not oppose the forfeiture of assets contemplated in paragraphs 22-26 of this agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that the United States will request that sentencing be deferred until that cooperation is complete.

6. Defendant understands and agrees that "fully cooperate," as that term is used herein, includes providing all information relating to any criminal activity known to Defendant, including but not limited to drugs, fraud, illegal firearms/immigration. Defendant understands that such information includes both state and federal offenses arising therefrom. In that regard:

- (a) Defendant agrees that this plea agreement binds only the United States

Attorney for the Southern District of Texas and Defendant; it does not bind any other United States Attorney or any other unit of the Department of Justice;

(b) Defendant agrees to testify truthfully as a witness before a grand jury or in any other judicial or administrative proceeding when called upon to do so by the United States. Defendant further agrees to waive his/her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination for the purpose of this agreement;

(c) Defendant agrees to voluntarily attend any interviews and conferences as the United States may request;

(d) Defendant agrees to provide truthful, complete and accurate information and testimony and understands any false statements made by the defendant to the Grand Jury or at any court proceeding (criminal or civil), or to a government agent or attorney, can and will be prosecuted under the appropriate perjury, false statement, or obstruction statutes;

(e) Defendant agrees to provide to the United States all documents in his/her possession or under his/her control relating to all areas of inquiry and investigation; and

(f) Should the recommended departure, if any, not meet Defendant's expectations, the Defendant understands that he/she remains bound by the terms of this agreement and cannot, for that reason alone, withdraw his/her plea.

#### **Waiver of Appeal and Collateral Review**

7. Defendant is aware that Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742, afford a defendant the right to appeal the conviction and sentence imposed. Defendant is also aware that Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, affords the right to contest or "collaterally attack" a conviction or sentence after the judgment of conviction and sentence has become final. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the right to appeal or "collaterally attack" the conviction and sentence, except that Defendant does not waive the right to raise a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel on direct appeal, if otherwise permitted, or on collateral review in a motion under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255. Defendant's knowing and voluntary waiver of the right to appeal or collaterally attack the conviction and

sentence includes waiving the right to raise on appeal or on collateral review any argument that (1) the statute(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional and (2) the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s). In the event Defendant files a notice of appeal following the imposition of the sentence or later collaterally attacks his/her conviction or sentence, the United States will assert its rights under this agreement and seek specific performance of these waivers.

8. In agreeing to these waivers, Defendant is aware that a sentence has not yet been determined by the Court. Defendant is also aware that any estimate of the possible sentencing range under the sentencing guidelines that he/she may have received from his/her counsel, the United States or the Probation Office, is a prediction and not a promise, did not induce his/her guilty plea, and is not binding on the United States, the Probation Office or the Court. The United States does not make any promise or representation concerning what sentence the defendant will receive. Defendant further understands and agrees that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are “effectively advisory” to the Court. *See United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005). Accordingly, Defendant understands that, although the Court must consult the Sentencing Guidelines and must take them into account when sentencing Defendant, the Court is not bound to follow the Sentencing Guidelines nor sentence Defendant within the calculated guideline range.

9. Defendant understands and agrees that each and all waivers contained in the Agreement are made in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this plea agreement.

#### **Defendant's Agreements under Fast Track**

10. Defendant agrees to each of the following:

- (a) To not litigate detention;
- (b) To not file any pre-trial motions;

- (c) To enter a plea of guilty to the Indictment during the week of the first deadline of filing of motions as scheduled by the Court;
- (d) To not request a variance under 18 U.S.C. Section 3553(a). [If applicable:]; and
- (e) To a \_\_\_\_-level enhancement pursuant to U.S.S.G. § \_\_\_\_\_, for [reckless endangerment / 2-24 aliens / etc.].

**The United States' Agreements**

11. The United States agrees to each of the following:

- (a) If Defendant pleads guilty to **Count One** of the indictment and persists in that plea through sentencing, and if the Court accepts this plea agreement, the United States will move to dismiss any remaining counts of the indictment at the time of sentencing;
- (b) If the Court determines that Defendant qualifies for an adjustment under Section 3E1.1(a) of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, and the offense level prior to operation of Section 3E1.1(a) is 16 or greater, the United States will move under Section 3E1.1(b) for an additional one-level reduction because Defendant timely notified authorities of his or her intent to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the United States and the Court to allocate their resources more efficiently;
- (c) If the Defendant fulfills his/her obligations under paragraph 10 of this Agreement, the United States will agree to move for a two-level downward departure under U.S.S.G. § 5K3.1.

**Agreement Binding - Southern District of Texas Only**

12. The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas agrees that it will not further criminally prosecute Defendant in the Southern District of Texas for offenses arising from conduct charged in the indictment. This plea agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas and Defendant. It does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office. The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of

Texas will bring this plea agreement and the full extent of Defendant's cooperation to the attention of other prosecuting offices, if requested.

**United States' Non-Waiver of Appeal**

13. The United States reserves the right to carry out its responsibilities under guidelines sentencing. Specifically, the United States reserves the right:

- (a) to bring its version of the facts of this case, including its evidence file and any investigative files, to the attention of the Probation Office in connection with that office's preparation of a presentence report;
- (b) to set forth or dispute sentencing factors or facts material to sentencing;
- (c) to seek resolution of such factors or facts in conference with Defendant's counsel and the Probation Office;
- (d) to file a pleading relating to these issues, in accordance with Section 6A1.2 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a); and
- (e) to appeal the sentence imposed or the manner in which it was determined.

**Sentence Determination**

14. Defendant is aware that the sentence will be imposed after consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements, which are only advisory, as well as the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a). Defendant nonetheless acknowledges and agrees that the Court has authority to impose any sentence up to and including the statutory maximum set for the offense(s) to which Defendant pleads guilty, and that the sentence to be imposed is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge after the Court has consulted the applicable Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands and agrees that the parties' positions regarding the application of the Sentencing Guidelines do not bind the Court and

that the sentence imposed is within the discretion of the sentencing judge. If the Court should impose any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, or should the Court order any or all of the sentences imposed to run consecutively, Defendant cannot, for that reason alone, withdraw a guilty plea, and will remain bound to fulfill all of the obligations under this plea agreement.

#### **Rights at Trial**

15. Defendant understands that by entering into this agreement, he/she surrenders certain rights as provided in this plea agreement. Defendant understands that the rights of a defendant include the following:

- (a) If Defendant persisted in a plea of not guilty to the charges, defendant would have the right to a speedy jury trial with the assistance of counsel. The trial may be conducted by a judge sitting without a jury if Defendant, the United States, and the court all agree.
- (b) At a trial, the United States would be required to present witnesses and other evidence against Defendant. Defendant would have the opportunity to confront those witnesses and his/her attorney would be allowed to cross-examine them. In turn, Defendant could, but would not be required to, present witnesses and other evidence on his/her own behalf. If the witnesses for Defendant would not appear voluntarily, he/she could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the court; and
- (c) At a trial, Defendant could rely on a privilege against self-incrimination and decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from such refusal to testify. However, if Defendant desired to do so, he/she could testify on his/her own behalf.

#### **Factual Basis for Guilty Plea**

16. Defendant is pleading guilty because he/she is in fact guilty of the charges contained in **Count One** of the indictment. If this case were to proceed to trial, the United States could

prove each element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt. The following facts, among others would be offered to establish Defendant's guilt:

**[SEE ATTACHED FACTUAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PLEA AGREEMENT]**

**Breach of Plea Agreement**

17. If Defendant should fail in any way to fulfill completely all of the obligations under this plea agreement, the United States will be released from its obligations under the plea agreement, and Defendant's plea and sentence will stand. If at any time Defendant retains, conceals, or disposes of assets in violation of this plea agreement, or if Defendant knowingly withholds evidence or is otherwise not completely truthful with the United States, then the United States may move the Court to set aside the guilty plea and reinstate prosecution. Any information and documents that have been disclosed by Defendant, whether prior to or subsequent to this plea agreement, and all leads derived therefrom, will be used against defendant in any prosecution.

**Fines**

18. Defendant understands that under the Sentencing Guidelines the Court is permitted to order Defendant to pay a fine that is sufficient to reimburse the government for the costs of any imprisonment or term of supervised release, if any. Defendant agrees that any fine imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately, and Defendant will not attempt to avoid or delay payment. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 7 above, Defendant waives the right to challenge the fine in any manner, including by direct appeal or in a collateral proceeding.

**Complete Agreement**

19. This written plea agreement, consisting of 14 pages, including the attached addendum of Defendant and his/her attorney, and the Factual Statement in Support of Plea Agreement, constitutes the complete plea agreement between the United States, Defendant, and

Defendant's counsel. No promises or representations have been made by the United States except as set forth in writing in this plea agreement. Defendant acknowledges that no threats have been made against him/her and that he/she is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because he/she is guilty.

20. Any modification of this plea agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.

Filed at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\*Osvaldo Vijil Nieto  
OSVALDO VIJIL-NIETO

Subscribed and sworn to before me on December 3, 2019.

DAVID J. BRADLEY, Clerk  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT CLERK

By: Veronica Contreras  
Deputy United States District Clerk

APPROVED:

RYAN K. PATRICK  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: Don A. Morris  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Southern District of Texas

Emilio Daula Jr.  
Attorney for Defendant